



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 1-4. (canceled)

1 5. (currently amended): ~~The fixation device of claim 1, additionally comprising~~
2 A fixation device for holding a first plurality of pins extending into one or more
3 fragments of a fractured end portion of a bone and for holding a second plurality
4 of pins extending into a shaft portion of said fractured bone, wherein said fixation
5 device comprises a frame including:

6 an arcuate portion including an arcuate inner surface and a first plurality of
7 holes extending radially from a center of said arcuate inner surface for holding
8 said first plurality of pins to extend inward radially toward said center of said
9 arcuate inner surface;

10 an elongated portion, extending in a first direction from said arcuate
11 portion, including an inner surface and a second plurality of holes for holding said
12 second plurality of pins to extend inward from said inner surface of said
13 elongated portion;

14 a sliding pin holder slidably mounted on said main plate and releasably
15 clamped in place on said main plate, wherein

16 a hole within said second plurality of holes extends within said sliding pin
17 holder, and

18 sliding said sliding pin holder in said first direction increases a distance
19 between a pin extending through said sliding pin holder and a pin extending
20 through each hole in said first plurality of holes.

1 6. (original): The fixation device of claim 5, wherein

2 said elongated portion of said frame includes an elongated hole extending
3 in said first direction,

4 said sliding pin holder includes a nut sliding in said first direction within
5 said elongated hole and a sliding clamping screw with threads engaging said nut,
6 and
7 said hole extending within said sliding pin holder extends through said
8 sliding clamping screw.

1 7. (original): The fixation device of claim 6, wherein an end of said sliding
2 clamping screw is divided into a number of flexible sections moving inward to
3 engage said pin extending through said sliding pin holder as said sliding
4 clamping screw is driven into engagement with said nut.

1 8. (original): The fixation device of claim 7, additionally comprising:
2 a yoke removably attached to said pin extending through said sliding pin
3 holder; and
4 a setscrew engaging said yoke to move said frame opposite direction
5 relative to said pin extending through said sliding pin holder.

1 9. (currently amended): ~~The fixation device of claim 1, wherein—~~ A fixation
2 device for holding a first plurality of pins extending into one or more fragments of
3 a fractured end portion of a bone and for holding a second plurality of pins
4 extending into a shaft portion of said fractured bone, wherein said fixation device
5 comprises:
6 a frame including an arcuate portion including an arcuate inner surface
7 and a first plurality of holes extending radially from a center of said arcuate inner
8 surface for holding said first plurality of pins to extend inward radially toward said
9 center of said arcuate inner surface, wherein each hole within said first plurality
10 of holes includes an internally threaded portion, and an elongated portion,
11 extending in a first direction from said arcuate portion, including an inner surface
12 and a second plurality of holes for holding said second plurality of pins to extend
13 inward from said inner surface of said elongated portion. and

14 ~~said fixation device additionally includes~~ a pin-clamping screw within said
15 internally threaded portion of a hole within said first plurality of holes, wherein
16 said pin-clamping screw includes a hole for holding a pin within said first plurality
17 of pins, and wherein an end of said ~~sliding~~ pin-clamping screw is divided into a
18 number of flexible sections moving inward to engage a pin extending through
19 said hole within said pin-clamping screw as said ~~sliding~~ pin-clamping screw is
20 driven into engagement with said internally traded portion of said hole within said
21 first plurality of holes.

1 10. (currently amended): ~~The fixation device of claim 1, wherein~~ A fixation
2 device for holding a first plurality of pins extending into one or more fragments of
3 a fractured end portion of a bone and for holding a second plurality of pins
4 extending into a shaft portion of said fractured bone, wherein said fixation device
5 comprises:

6 a frame including an arcuate portion including an arcuate inner surface
7 and a first plurality of holes extending radially from a center of said arcuate inner
8 surface for holding said first plurality of pins to extend inward radially toward said
9 center of said arcuate inner surface, and an elongated portion, extending in a first
10 direction from said arcuate portion, including an inner surface and a second
11 plurality of holes for holding said second plurality of pins to extend inward from
12 said inner surface of said elongated portion, wherein each hole within said
13 second plurality of holes includes an internally threaded portion; and

14 ~~said fixation device additionally includes~~ a pin-clamping screw within said
15 internally threaded portion of a hole within said second plurality of holes, wherein
16 said pin-clamping screw includes a hole for holding a pin within said second
17 plurality of pins, and wherein an end of said ~~sliding~~ pin-clamping screw is divided
18 into a number of flexible sections moving inward to engage a pin extending
19 through said hole within said pin-clamping screw as said ~~sliding~~ pin-clamping
20 screw is driven into engagement with said internally traded portion of said hole
21 within said second plurality of holes.

1 11. (currently amended): ~~The fixation device of claim 1, additionally comprising~~
2 A fixation device for holding a first plurality of pins extending into one or more
3 fragments of a fractured end portion of a bone and for holding a second plurality
4 of pins extending into a shaft portion of said fractured bone, wherein said fixation
5 device comprises:

6 a frame including an arcuate portion including an arcuate inner surface
7 and a first plurality of holes extending radially from a center of said arcuate inner
8 surface for holding said first plurality of pins to extend inward radially toward said
9 center of said arcuate inner surface, and an elongated portion, extending in a first
10 direction from said arcuate portion, including an inner surface and a second
11 plurality of holes for holding said second plurality of pins to extend inward from
12 said inner surface of said elongated portion. and

13 a plurality of removably attached spacing blocks for holding said frame
14 spaced away from a body part to which said fixation device is attached.

1 12. (canceled)

1 13. (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 12, additionally comprising,~~
2 ~~between steps b) and c),~~ A method for fixing one or more fragments of a
3 fractured end portion of a bone in place with respect to a shaft portion of said
4 bone, wherein said method comprises:

5 a) surgically inserting a first plurality of pins through holes within a first
6 plurality of holes extending within an arcuate portion of a fixture into said
7 fractured end portion of said bone, wherein said arcuate portion includes an
8 arcuate inner surface, and wherein said first plurality of holes extend radially from
9 a center of said arcuate inner surface;

10 b) clamping each pin within said first plurality of pins in place within a
11 hole within said first plurality of holes;

12 e) c) surgically inserting a sliding pin to extend through a hole within a
13 sliding pin holder, mounted to slide along said main plate of said fixation device,
14 into said shaft portion of said bone;
15 f) d) after completing step c), sliding said sliding pin holder to establish
16 extension between bone fragments of in said fractured end portion of said bone
17 and shaft of said bone; and
18 g) e) clamping said sliding pin holder in a location established in step e)
19 d) to maintain said extension;
20 f) surgically inserting a second pin to extend through a hole within a
21 second plurality of holes in an elongated portion of said fixture to extend into a
22 shaft portion of said bone; and
23 g) clamping said second pin to extend through said hole within said
24 second plurality of holes.

1 14. (currently amended): The method of claim 13, wherein step f) d) includes
2 attaching a yoke to said sliding pin; and
3 driving a setscrew to slide said yoke with said sliding pin and said sliding
4 pin holder relative to said elongated portion of said fixture.

1 15. (original): The method of claim 14, additionally comprising removing said
2 yoke from said sliding pin.

1 16. (currently amended): The method of claim 13, wherein step g) includes:
2 rotating a sliding pin clamping screw, engaging a nut mounted to slide
3 within an elongated slot in said first plate, in an engagement direction,
4 rotating said sliding pin clamping screw in said engagement direction pulls
5 said nut to move into engagement with a surface of said elongated slot, clamping
6 said nut in place within said elongated slot, and

7 rotating said sliding pin clamping screw in said engagement direction
8 drives flexible sections of said sliding pin clamping screw inward to clamp said
9 sliding pin within a hole extending through said sliding pin clamping screw.

1 17. (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 12, wherein step b)~~ includes A
2 method for fixing one or more fragments of a fractured end portion of a bone in
3 place with respect to a shaft portion of said bone, wherein said method
4 comprises:

5 a) surgically inserting a first plurality of pins through holes within a first
6 plurality of holes extending within an arcuate portion of a fixture into said
7 fractured end portion of said bone, wherein said arcuate portion includes an
8 arcuate inner surface, and wherein said first plurality of holes extend radially from
9 a center of said arcuate inner surface;

10 b) clamping each pin within said first plurality of pins in place within a
11 hole within said first plurality of holes by rotating a pin clamping screw in
12 engagement with a threaded portion of said holes ~~hole~~ within said first plurality of
13 holes to drive flexible sections of said pin clamping screw inward to clamp each
14 of said first plurality of pins within a hole extending through said pin clamping
15 screw;

16 c) surgically inserting a second pin to extend through a hole within a
17 second plurality of holes in an elongated portion of said fixture to extend into a
18 shaft portion of said bone; and

19 d) clamping said second pin to extend through said hole within said
20 second plurality of holes.

1 18. (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 12, wherein step d)~~ includes A
2 method for fixing one or more fragments of a fractured end portion of a bone in
3 place with respect to a shaft portion of said bone, wherein said method
4 comprises:

5 a) surgically inserting a first plurality of pins through holes within a first
6 plurality of holes extending within an arcuate portion of a fixture into said
7 fractured end portion of said bone, wherein said arcuate portion includes an
8 arcuate inner surface, and wherein said first plurality of holes extend radially from
9 a center of said arcuate inner surface;

10 b) clamping each pin within said first plurality of pins in place within a
11 hole within said first plurality of holes;

12 c) surgically inserting a second pin to extend through a hole within a
13 second plurality of holes in an elongated portion of said fixture to extend into a
14 shaft portion of said bone; and

15 d) clamping said second pin to extend through said hole within said
16 second plurality of holes by rotating a pin clamping screw in engagement with a
17 threaded portion of said holes hole within said second plurality of holes to drive
18 flexible sections of said pin clamping screw inward to clamp said second pin
19 within a hole extending through said sliding pin clamping screw.

1 19. (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 12, wherein step d) is followed by~~
2 A method for fixing one or more fragments of a fractured end portion of a bone in
3 place with respect to a shaft portion of said bone, wherein said method
4 comprises:

5 a) surgically inserting a first plurality of pins through holes within a first
6 plurality of holes extending within an arcuate portion of a fixture into said
7 fractured end portion of said bone, wherein said arcuate portion includes an
8 arcuate inner surface, and wherein said first plurality of holes extend radially from
9 a center of said arcuate inner surface;

10 b) clamping each pin within said first plurality of pins in place within a
11 hole within said first plurality of holes;

12 c) surgically inserting a second pin to extend through a hole within a
13 second plurality of holes in an elongated portion of said fixture to extend into a
14 shaft portion of said bone;

15 d) clamping said second pin to extend through said hole within said
16 second plurality of holes; and
17 e) removing a plurality of removably attached spacing blocks for
18 holding said frame spaced away from a body part to which said fixation device is
19 attached .

1 20. (new): The fixation device of claim 5, wherein
2 said first plurality of holes extend in first pattern and second patterns
3 displaced from one another in said first direction,
4 holes within said first pattern are angularly displaced from one another
5 along said arcuate inner surface, and
6 holes within said second pattern are angularly displaced from one another
7 along said arcuate inner surface.

1 21. (new): The fixation device of claim 20, wherein holes within said second
2 pattern are disposed at angles between adjacent holes in said first pattern.

1 22. (new): The fixation device of claim 5, wherein said second plurality of holes
2 are spaced apart in said first direction.